

# Trustees' Annual Report for the period

<b>From</b>		Period start date			<b>To</b>		Period end date		
	Day	Month	Year		Day	Month	Year		
	1	January	2023		31	December	2023		

## Section A Reference and administration details

**Charity name**

Conflict Research Society

**Other names charity is known by**

**Registered charity number (if any)**

306136

**Charity's principal address**

45 Ethelbert Road	
Canterbury	
<b>Postcode</b>	CT1 3NF

### Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Govinda Clayton	Chair		CRS Council
2	Hugh Miall	President		CRS Council
3	John Gledhill	Membership Secretary		CRS Council
4	Hilary Adams	Treasurer		CRS Council
5	Christine Cheng	Council Member		CRS Council
6	Valerie Sticher	Council Member		CRS Council
7	Rob Nagel	Deputy Director		CRS Council
8	Allard Duursma	Council Member		CRS Council
9	Kit Rickard	Secretary		CRS Council
10	Kristin M. Bakke	Council Member		CRS Council
11	Oliver Ramsbotham	Council Member		CRS Council
12	Tom Woodhouse	Council Member		CRS Council
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				

### Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year
Hilary Adams	
Kristin M. Bakke	

	Christine Cheng	
	Jennifer Hodge	
	Hugh Miall	

**Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)**

Type of adviser	Name	Address

**Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)**

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**Section B Structure, governance and management**

**Description of the charity's trusts**

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	Constitution
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	Association
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	Annual election to Council by membership at AGM

**Additional governance issues (Optional information)**

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

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**Section C Objectives and activities**

**Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document**

The objects of the Society are to promote research, practice and the extension of knowledge in the fields of Peace and Conflict Research. By the term 'Peace and Conflict Research' is meant the investigation and study on a systematic basis of the following:

- a) The **CONDITIONS AND DYNAMICS** of cooperation and conflict at all levels, with special reference to large-scale violent conflicts, including war.
- b) The **FACTORS** within and across social systems which cause them to approach or avoid constructive or destructive conflicts. This requires a multi-disciplinary pooling of knowledge.
- c) The **PROCESS** of preventing, managing, resolving and transforming conflicts and building peace, including such specific proposals as the modification of existing social or political institutions or the creation of new ones. 'Building peace' includes research into underlying asymmetries and inequalities and their implications. It also includes research and activities related to exploration of the creative dimensions of what has been termed positive peace.
- d) The **LIKELY CONSEQUENCES** of particular policies and proposals intended to avoid, resolve or control conflicts, or to increase cooperation between groups of individuals, the steps necessary to realise such proposals, and possible obstacles in their way. This includes research into the link between theory and practice.
- e) Any other problems directly relevant to conflict and cooperative behaviour. The investigation and study is directed as far as possible towards finding factual evidence and objective criteria for testing theories and hypotheses. This includes the aim of relating quantitative and qualitative data.

**Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)**

To this end the Society organizes an annual conference and occasionally other meetings. It publishes a newsletter for the benefit of members. It gives an annual Book Prize to the most outstanding book in its field every year, and awards a prize for the best piece of PhD research. It occasionally offers small travel grants to PhD researchers in its area. It promotes the exchange of news and information in the conflict research and practice field through its website, twitter feed and networking.

In organizing these activities the trustees have regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

**Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)**

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

**Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year**

The 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary conference of the CRS, was held at King's College London, and was a huge success, with 280 participants from over 100 institutions.

The conference showcased a mixture of different disciplinary and methodological approaches, and with a range of different participants – scholars, academics, practitioners and policymakers – to discuss the latest research and practice on peace and conflict.

After a full day of workshops on the first day of the conference, Christine Cheng chaired an open panel on “Unravelling the Russia-Ukraine Conflict: Perspectives and Prospects”, inviting both CRS participants and the general public into this timely discussion.

The second day of the conference opened with a high level panel, chaired by CRS Chair Govinda Clayton, on “The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly, the Current State of International Peacemaking.” The panel epitomised the ethos of CRS, bringing together senior partitioners and policy makers into discussion, including: Teresa Whitfield (Former Director of the Policy and Mediation Division at the United Nations Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs); Katia Papagianni (Director of Mediation Support and Policy Unit, Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue) and Steve Ainsworth (Deputy Head - Negotiations and Peace Process Department, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office).

To round off the excellent day of panels, we were delighted to hear Jelke Boesten’s keynote speech on the “Intimacies of Violence and the Affective Life of War.”

The conference continued to recognise outstanding contributions to the field. Noyonika Das was awarded the 2023 Sydney Bailey Fund, a grant that is intended to support research activities for a PhD student’s dissertation.

Sigrid Weber was awarded the Cedric Smith Prize for the best piece of research by a PhD candidate or someone having recently passed their PhD defense, for the paper, “Controlling a Moving World: Territorial Control, Displacement and the Spread of Civilian Targeting in Iraq”.

The CRS Book of the Year Prize, which honours research that is contemporary, exceptional and world-leading, went to Julia Zulver for her book, “High-Risk Feminism in Colombia: Women’s Mobilization in Violent Contexts.” On the final day of the conference her keynote speech drew questions from a range of academics and practitioners.

This year, the CRS medal for outstanding contributions to the CRS was presented to Gordon Burt. The Council agreed that Gordon's contribution to the CRS has been unparalleled. He almost single-handedly ran all aspects of the society for several years. His vision and ambitious agenda with regards to building the team and the conference set out the path to a stronger more vibrant society that the CRS community have enjoyed in recent times. Congratulations again to Gordon on this achievement.

During the conference the CRS also conducted a Council meeting. During the meeting current Chair Govinda Clayton indicated his plans to step down, and there was a discussion about the process to elect the next Chair. Rob Nagel was appointed to act as Interim Chair, and oversee the electoral process.

The council shared its deep gratitude to Hilary Adams, for her invaluable work as treasurer.

John Gledhill presented the membership report, which showed a record number of members.

Jennifer Hodge updated the council on the conference this year, which had a record number of participants.

Throughout the year the Council continued to meet online and discuss matters by email, and individual Council members and members of the Society participated in a wide range of activities which promote conflict research and practice; we heard a round-up of these activities in our Council meetings.

## Section E

## Financial review

### Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

The Society made a deficit in the current year of £2,611 which when added to the surplus brought forward of £49,994 leaves a balance to carry forward of £47,383. The Society holds no restricted funds and keeps all its funds in a bank account.

### Details of any funds materially in deficit

### Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

## Section F

## Other optional information

## Section G

## Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

### Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)

*Kristin M. Bakke*

Full name(s)

Prof. Kristin M. Bakke

Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)

Chair

Date

12.09.24



CHARITY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name  
**Conflict Research Society**

No (if any)  
306136

**CC16a**

**Receipts and payments accounts**

For the period from	Period start date 1.1.23	To	Period end date 31.12.23
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**Section A Receipts and payments**

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>					
Conference fees	28'125		-	28'125	25'023
Membership	1'406		-	1'406	794
Grant	2'210		-	2'210	1'000
			-	-	-
			-	-	-
			-	-	-
			-	-	-
<b>Sub total (Gross income for AR)</b>	<b>31'741</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>31'741</b>	<b>26'817</b>
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>31'741</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>31'741</b>	<b>26'817</b>
<b>A3 Payments</b>					
Awards & prizes	356	-	-	356	210
Website	288	-	-	288	434
Newsletter & admin	1'300	-	-	1'300	1'672
Conference costs	31'682	-	-	31'682	17'068
Bank & paypal charges	726	-	-	726	668
			-	-	-
			-	-	-
			-	-	-
			-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>34'352</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>34'352</b>	<b>20'052</b>
<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>34'352</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>34'352</b>	<b>20'052</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>- 2'611</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>- 2'611</b>	<b>6'765</b>
<b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>	<b>49'994</b>			<b>49'994</b>	<b>43'229</b>
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>47'383</b>			<b>47'383</b>	<b>49'994</b>

## Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
<b>B1 Cash funds</b>	Lloyd bank	41'985		-
	Paypal	5'087	-	-
	Coop Bank	311	-	-
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>47'383</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
<b>B2 Other monetary assets</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Unrestricted funds to nearest £</b>	<b>Restricted funds to nearest £</b>	<b>Endowment funds to nearest £</b>
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
<b>B3 Investment assets</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Fund to which asset belongs</b>	<b>Cost (optional)</b>	<b>Current value (optional)</b>
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
<b>B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Fund to which asset belongs</b>	<b>Cost (optional)</b>	<b>Current value (optional)</b>
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
<b>B5 Liabilities</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Fund to which liability relates</b>	<b>Amount due (optional)</b>	<b>When due (optional)</b>
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/  
members of

Charity Name  
Conflict Research Society

On accounts for the year  
ended

31 December 2023

Charity no  
(if any)

306136

Set out on pages

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2023.

Responsibilities and  
basis of report

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent  
examiner's statement

[The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of [insert name of applicable listed body]]. *Delete [ ] if not applicable.*

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below \*) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

\* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

Date:

04/03/2024

Name:

Lu Li

Relevant professional  
qualification(s) or body

Fellow Chartered and Certified Accountant

(if any):

Address:

**Section B Disclosure**

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.